

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 19, 20, 24, 26, 28 and 29, and add new claims 35-41, as shown below in the detailed listing of all claims which are, or were, in this application:

Claims 1-18 (canceled).

19. (Currently amended) A valve, crossed by at least one channel, allowing to direct at least one fluid displaced by transfer means within a test sample card, the card featuring two faces connected to one another by an edge, wherein it comprises a flexible film, and/or which can be distorted, part of which is fixed to at least one of the faces of said card, and a film compression means, which may be activated or deactivated, and wherein ~~the~~ a securing of the film on the card is made on at least one of the faces, ~~for example a plane face,~~ by means of a securing feature located at the level of a recess provided around the valve, ~~such as a groove.~~

20. (Currently amended) The valve of claim 19, wherein the securing of the film on the card is peripheral to ~~the~~ a set of channels concerned by the valve, ~~namely~~ comprising at least one fluid entry channel and at least one fluid exit channel, whether the fluids are identical or different.

21. (Previously presented) The valve of claim 19, wherein the securing is ensured by a heat seal peripheral to the valve.

22. (Previously presented) The valve of claim 19, wherein the compression means acts on the film at the intersection point between at least one of the channels of the valve and the face concerned of the card.

23. (Previously presented) The valve of claim 19, wherein the compression means comprises a flexible tab.

24. (Currently amended) The valve of claim 19, wherein the compression means features a closing means, ~~such as an elastomer pin,~~ and an opening and closing means, ~~such as a wedge,~~ which synergizes with the actuation mechanisms.

25. (Previously presented) The valve of claim 19, wherein the film on the valve is in contact with the plane face of the card, when said valve is in closed position, and is lifted in relation to said plane face, when the valve is in open position.

26. (Currently amended) A test sample card comprising at least two, ~~and preferably a plurality of,~~ valves of claim 19, which are

positioned side by side and are fully or partly distributed along at least one edge of said card, and provided with compression means dedicated to the compression of the valves, positioned side by side, ~~which are preferably connected together in order to form a strip assembly.~~

27. (Previously presented) The card of claim 26, having a substantially parallelepiped arrangement, wherein the edge(s) where the valves are located, is(are) rectilinear, and in that the distance separating said edge in relation to the location of each valve is constant.

28. (Currently amended) The ~~valve~~ card of claim 26, wherein two adjacent valves positioned side by side are separated by a space between 1 and 5mm, ~~and preferably with spacing having values used in the field of electronics, such as 3.96mm, 2.54mm or 1.28mm.~~

29. (Currently amended) A device enabling several cards ~~[[ (1) ]]~~ to be implemented according to claim 26, comprising  
- a storage area for the cards which are placed parallel to one another, with all of the valves on the same edge located within the same plane facing ~~the~~ an intermediate area,

U.S. Appln. S.N. 10/009,824  
SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

- a valve opening and closing inspection area associated with a manual or automatic control system, and made up of actuators, ~~such as electromagnets,~~ for ~~the~~ which ~~the~~ longitudinal movements take place in the direction of said intermediate area, and

- said intermediate area which serves as an interface between the storage area and the inspection area, this intermediate area ~~consisting in~~ comprising maneuvering pins having at least two positions, one position which allows ~~the~~ opening and the other allowing ~~the~~ closure of valves.

30. (Previously presented) The device of claim 29, wherein it has one actuator per card, and wherein there is one maneuvering pin per valve.

31. (Previously presented) The device of claim 29, wherein the movement of the actuator is coaxial to the longitudinal axis of the maneuvering pin and the valve, which is activated or deactivated.

32. (Previously presented) The device of claim 29, wherein the set of actuators is mounted in the same plane and is mobile along an axis parallel to the plane formed by all of the edges of the cards having the valves which can be activated by these actuators.

33. (Previously presented) The device of claim 29, wherein the maneuvering pins have two possible positions, one allowing the opening and the other allowing the closure of the valves, each position being on each side of a confining element.

34. (Previously presented) The device of claim 33, wherein the confining element is mobile between two extreme positions, one where it prevents the pins from moving, and the other where the movement of said pins is possible.

35. (New) The valve of claim 19, wherein at least one of said faces is a plane face.

36. (New) The valve of claim 19, wherein said recess is a groove.

37. (New) The valve of claim 24, wherein said closing means comprises an elastomer pin.

38. (New) The valve of claim 24, wherein said opening and closing means comprises a wedge.

39. (New) The card of claim 26, wherein said compression means are connected together.

U.S. Appln. S.N. 10/009,824  
SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**PATENT**

40. (New) The card of claim 28, wherein said space has a value selected from the group consisting of 3.96 mm, 2.54 mm and 1.28 mm.

41. (New) The device of claim 29, wherein said actuators comprises electromagnets.